

Moat Community College

Maidstone Road, Leicester, LE2 0TU

Inspection dates

23–24 January 2014

Overall effectiveness	Previous inspection:	Good	2
	This inspection:	Good	2
Achievement of pupils		Good	2
Quality of teaching		Good	2
Behaviour and safety of pupils		Good	2
Leadership and management		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

This is a good school.

- From low starting points, students make good progress. The proportion of students achieving five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, has risen and is now in line with the national average.
- Achievement in science, the school specialism, is among the very best nationally.
- Overall, across the range of subjects, students eligible for the pupil premium now attain as highly as their classmates.
- Teaching is typically good. Teachers use good subject knowledge and a variety of methods and resources to motivate students. There are examples of outstanding teaching.
- Attendance is good because the school is a happy community where students enjoy their learning and feel safe. Students' behaviour is good. They respond well to leaders' very clear expectations.
- Senior leaders make sure all groups of students have an equal opportunity to succeed. Since the last inspection, leaders, including governors, have driven improvements in achievement, teaching and behaviour, with exceptional improvement in mathematics.
- Governors have a good understanding of the school's performance and actively seek to be as well informed about all aspects of its work as possible.

It is not yet an outstanding school because

- More-able students are not always challenged enough in lessons, particularly regarding their use of spoken and written English.
- Students do not always develop the skills learnt in literacy, especially in writing, by practising them in other subjects.
- The effectiveness of teachers' marking varies between subjects, and does not always help students to improve their work.

Information about this inspection

- Inspectors observed 43 lessons, five of which were observed jointly with senior leaders.
- Inspectors held meetings with senior and subject leaders, groups of students, the Chair and other members of the Governing Body, and a representative from the local authority who supports the school’s work.
- Inspectors considered the views of the 14 parents who responded to Parent View, the online questionnaire, and the school’s own surveys of parents. They analysed the results of the 44 replies to the staff questionnaire.
- Inspectors looked at the school’s data on students’ progress, lesson plans, minutes of meetings and records relating to behaviour, safety and attendance. They also reviewed the school’s checks on how well it is doing and school improvement plans.

Inspection team

Lisa Fraser, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

Robert McDonough

Additional Inspector

John Greevy

Additional Inspector

Christopher Crouch

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Full report

Information about this school

- The school is larger than most secondary schools.
- Almost all students are from minority ethnic backgrounds. Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Somali are the largest ethnic groups.
- Almost all students speak English as an additional language.
- The proportion of students eligible for the pupil premium, which provides additional funding for students who are known to be eligible for free school meals, looked after by the local authority or from service families, is above average.
- The proportion of disabled students and those who have special educational needs supported through school action is above average. The proportion supported at school action plus or with a statement of special educational needs is below average.
- The school has a science specialism.
- A small number of students in Years 10 and 11 spend part of their time studying at Leicester College.
- The school meets the government's current floor standards, which set the minimum expectations for students' attainment and progress.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

- Make more teaching outstanding by:
 - ensuring that more-able students are challenged in lessons, especially in their use of a high standard of English in spoken and written work
 - helping students to develop their literacy skills, particularly in writing, by practising them across the range of subjects
 - sharing the most effective practice in marking more widely across the school.

Inspection judgements

The achievement of pupils is good

- Students enter the school with skills in reading, writing and mathematics which are significantly below national averages. In 2013, the proportion of students achieving five or more GCSE passes at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, rose sharply and is now in line with national average; this represents good progress.
- The school's projections for the current Year 11 indicate that students will have made or exceeded expected progress by the end of the year in both mathematics and English. Data for students in other year groups indicate that they are also achieving well.
- In science, achievement is consistently among the very best nationally, reflecting well upon the school's specialism. Students make outstanding progress and standards are well above average because teachers have excellent subject knowledge and know their students well. Some students are entered early for their GCSE examination and this has proved extremely successful.
- In 2013, the proportion of students making expected progress in mathematics improved dramatically and was much higher than average. This is a result of the good senior leadership focus on improving mathematics. For the first time, selected students were entered early for their GCSE examination and this resulted in an above-average proportion of students exceeding the progress expected nationally.
- In English, students' examination results reflected broadly average progress. In the English lessons observed, students made good progress. However, senior leaders acknowledge that students are not always encouraged enough to use and develop their literacy skills, particularly writing skills in other subjects.
- Disabled students and those who have special educational needs make good progress because leaders identify students' specific needs accurately. As a result, appropriate help and guidance is provided to help students catch up.
- Pupil premium funding is spent on a range of initiatives, including one-to-one tuition. Senior leaders are fully committed to ensuring equality of opportunity. Their efforts to reduce gaps in attainment between students eligible for the pupil premium and their classmates have had an excellent impact and these students now make better progress in English. Overall, students eligible for the pupil premium now attain as highly as other students.
- Year 7 'catch-up' funding is being used effectively to pay for a primary-trained specialist teacher, to provide extra phonics lessons (linking letters to the sounds they make) for some, and the 'leap into literacy' initiative (a reading and writing support programme) for others. As a result, students' attainment in English is rising.
- Students make good progress in many subjects, particularly in media and Spanish. Girls attain higher standards than boys, reflecting their higher starting points. Senior leaders are aware of the gender gap and training for teachers focuses on developing strategies to improve boys' achievement. More-able students achieve well, but do not make as much progress in English as other students because they are not always sufficiently challenged to use a high enough standard of English in their verbal and written responses across the range of subjects.
- The attendance and progress of the small number of students who study away from the school

are monitored carefully to ensure they achieve well.

The quality of teaching is good

- The quality of teaching is good overall. Examples of outstanding teaching were seen in mathematics and history, and a small minority of lessons required improvement. This closely matches the school's own view of teaching.
- Students make good progress in most subjects because teachers plan lessons carefully, using a variety of resources and strategies that cater for the wide range of students' abilities. For example, students in a Year 9 history lesson made outstanding progress in their understanding of the assassination of Kennedy as a result of the teacher's sophisticated use of information technology, including the use of multimedia clips.
- In English, mathematics and science, teachers' strong subject knowledge enables them to make learning easy to understand for all groups of students by skilfully adapting the work at different levels of difficulty. As a result, students' achievement is good and sometimes outstanding. For example, in a Year 10 mathematics lesson students made outstanding progress when using indices to simplify algebraic expressions because the teacher's explanations were straightforward and clear.
- Relationships between teachers and students are consistently positive. Students enjoy discussing their ideas and cooperate well when working in pairs or groups. Teachers' good encouragement gives students confidence that they can succeed. In science, students are often given the opportunity to develop their numeracy skills and this supports students' good achievement in mathematics.
- Marking in English is effective in raising standards because students regularly receive clear advice about what they need to do to improve their work, and teachers make sure they act upon it. However, this is not the case in all subjects.
- In subjects other than English, students are not given enough help to improve their reading and writing skills. Teachers do not always show high enough expectations of the standard of more-able students' spoken and written English.

The behaviour and safety of pupils are good

- The behaviour of students is good in lessons; around the school, behaviour is also good, despite the cramped conditions and upheaval resulting from the current building works. Students are respectful of each other and of staff; they are particularly welcoming to visitors and respond quickly to staff requests.
- Attendance is good because students enjoy their learning. The school's own surveys confirm that parents feel their child is happy at school. In lessons, students' attitudes to learning are consistently positive. Students understand the school's expectations of their behaviour and respond well to the system of rewards; this contributes strongly to their good progress. Corridors are tidy and there are few examples of litter.
- The school's work to keep students safe and secure is good. Students in all year groups say they feel safe at school. They have a good understanding of the different forms of bullying and say that it is rare. Where bullying occurs, students are confident the school takes appropriate action

and all feel that there is always a member of staff they can talk to about any concerns they have.

- Fixed-term exclusions have been high in the past but are reducing as a result of new systems for managing behaviour. There have been no permanent exclusions for several years.
- Students are actively encouraged to think about how to keep safe. For example, during a tutorial session led by an outside speaker, Year 7 students made thoughtful observations when considering different aspects of road safety. Students are encouraged to believe they can help others and make a difference. Students recently raised money for a charity helping teenagers suffering from depression, and in November the school council sold poppies to students who wished to commemorate Remembrance Day.

The leadership and management are good

- Senior leaders have created a learning environment where both students and staff feel happy and secure. As a result, students have very positive attitudes to learning, and achievement is rising as a consequence. The school is in a strong position to improve even further because leaders at all levels, including subject leaders, have the support of both staff and parents, as indicated by responses to the survey and online questionnaire.
- School improvement plans identify appropriate priorities and leaders' assessment of the school's strengths and areas for development is accurate. The systems used for managing staff performance are robust and take account of a range of information, in addition to lesson observations. Any teacher whose students are not performing well is supported to improve their skills. Leaders cite examples where support has improved the quality of teaching to securely 'good' and sometimes 'outstanding'.
- Training for staff is well focused on both individual and whole-school needs. Teachers are appreciative of the range of opportunities on offer, which is enhanced by the good training programmes offered by the local authority. Newly qualified teachers receive a comprehensive support package, including input from outside trainers and good links with universities.
- Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is strong. Good assemblies encourage students to reflect upon life in Britain and links with schools in India and Yemen broaden their horizons. Last term students in Year 10 enjoyed opportunities on a residential visit to develop their team building skills while learning archery, quad biking and raft building. Many students have participated in the modern languages department's visits to France and Spain.
- The range of subjects is appropriate and meets students' needs. In Year 10, students have the opportunity to undertake two weeks' work experience to develop their skills for the workplace. Students are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Almost all students go on to further study, work or into training as a result of the good careers advice they receive.
- Good input from the local authority to support mathematics has contributed to the recent improvements in results.
- All statutory requirements relating to safeguarding are met.

■ **The governance of the school:**

- Since the previous inspection, the governing body has been restructured in order to enable all governors to have a more detailed knowledge of all aspects of the school's work. Governors have a good understanding of published data such as the *Data Dashboard* and know how the school performs in comparison with other secondary schools nationally. Governors know about the quality of teaching and use rigorous systems to manage the performance of senior leaders. The governing body has been actively involved in tackling underperformance and ensures that teachers' pay rises are linked to students' good achievement. Governors continually seek to support the school further by attending regular training.

What inspection judgements mean

School		
Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	An outstanding school is highly effective in delivering outcomes that provide exceptionally well for all its pupils' needs. This ensures that pupils are very well equipped for the next stage of their education, training or employment.
Grade 2	Good	A good school is effective in delivering outcomes that provide well for all its pupils' needs. Pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education, training or employment.
Grade 3	Requires improvement	A school that requires improvement is not yet a good school, but it is not inadequate. This school will receive a full inspection within 24 months from the date of this inspection.
Grade 4	Inadequate	<p>A school that has serious weaknesses is inadequate overall and requires significant improvement but leadership and management are judged to be Grade 3 or better. This school will receive regular monitoring by Ofsted inspectors.</p> <p>A school that requires special measures is one where the school is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the school's leaders, managers or governors have not demonstrated that they have the capacity to secure the necessary improvement in the school. This school will receive regular monitoring by Ofsted inspectors.</p>

School details

Unique reference number	120292
Local authority	Leicester
Inspection number	440447

This inspection was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. The inspection was also deemed a section 5 inspection under the same Act.

Type of school	Secondary
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	11–16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	1051
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Jo Hollings
Principal	Nigel Boyd
Date of previous school inspection	16 March 2011
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